Pollution of Rivers

277. SHRI J.P. GOYAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that water of all rivers in the country has becom; polluted and germs of serious diseases of lungs and skin are found in these rivers ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the ashes of dead bodies and thousands of unburnt dead bodies are thrown into the rivers and the waste of industries is also released into the rivers;

(c) whether any steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to check such practice;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if the reply to part (c) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) Stretches of many rivers are highly polluted. Use of polluted water often gives rise to water-borne diseases like typhoid dysentery etc. It is difficult to correlate lung and skin diseases directly with the pollution.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The steps taken by the Government to prevent and control pollution of rivers in the country include the following :

(i) Creation of public awareness;

^(ii) Construction of Electric Crematoria;

(iii) Zoning and classification of river stretchers for designated uses ;

(iv) Formulation of Minimum National Standards for various polluting industries and their phased implementation by Central and State Pollution Control Boards ;

(v) Persuading industries to adopt pollution control measures ;

(vi) Legal action against defaulting industries ;

(vii) Financial incentives for installation and satisfac tory performance of polu-tion control equip-ment;

(viii) Encouragement for installation of common effluent treatment plants particularly for the small-scale industries; and

(ix) Formulation of basin-wise pollution control programmes such as the Ganga Action Plan .

(e) Does not arise.

Effect of price hike on people living beiow Poverty Line

378. SHRI J.P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent price hike in almost all the essential commodities has effected the people living below the poverty line or who had been raised from the poverty line ;

(b) whether due to this price escalation the poverty line has changed.

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) what is the number of persons living below the poverty line as a result of all round rise in prices and what steps are contemplated for their upliftment.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The recent hike in prices of certain essentia] commodities has affected people to some extent. That is why in orde r to give rt lit f, spe cially subsidise d foodgrains hav< been provide d for pe ople li\ ing in triL al art as, pregnant women, young children and nursing mothers as also in various rural works programmes. The such subsidise d rate s arc as follows :

(*Price per Quintal*)

	Normal Central Issue price PDS	Specially subsidised Central issue price for the scheme	End-price to consumers under the scheme
Wheat	Rs. 196	Rs. 125	Rs. 150
Rice —Common . .	Rs. 231	Rs. 160	Rs. 185
—Fine . . .	Rs. 243	Rs. 170	Rs. 195
—Superfine . . .	Rs. 258	Rs. 185	Rs. 210

(b) and (c) 9 The poverty line used in thw Seventh Five Year Plan is the per cipita monthly expenditure level of Rs. 107 in rural areas and Rs. 122 in urban areas at 1984-85 prices. This corresponds to the calories requirements of 2400 per capita per day in rural areas and 2100 per capita per day in urban areas.This poverty line will be up-dated for subsequent years by using the Central Statistical organisation Private Consumption deflator (as a proxy for rise in the price of the consumption basket).

(d) The estimates of poverty are based on the National Sample Survey (NSS) data on Household Consumption expenditure. The estimates for 1983-84 are based on the 38th. Round of the National Sample Survey. The nest Survey will be undertaken only in 1988 or 1989 and, therefore, it is not possible at this stage to indicate the change in the number of persons living below the poverty line due to the up-dating of the poverty line, as a result of rise in prices.

The Public Distribution System is a permanent ftature ofthe strategy to protect all consumers including poor families from hike in prices of essential commodities. Apart frcm this, the Government have proposed various measures for the improvement of level of living of those beiow the poverty line through distribution of foodgrains at conc ssional prices. These include programmes for dis-rbution of foodgrains, particularly, price and wheat to the people in the Integrated Tribal Developme nt Pro-jects, expansion of the coverage of Rui al Landless Employment Gur-rantee Programme and National Rural Employment Programme and for the nutrition.

The nutrition programme for young children, pregnant women and nursing mothers is being implemented by the various States and Union Territories in the tribal areas, urban slums and backward rural areas covering 11 million beneficiaries. It has now been decided to provide neecssary additional support to the States with effect from 1-1-1986 so as to enable them to increase the coverage to 14 million even in 1986-87. The Central Government will meet in full the entire cost of wheat as well as all supportive costs corresponding to the higher coverage to be achieved over and above what

the State Governments have already programmes to achieve every year in their Seventh Five Year Plan. The additional outlay on this account to the Centre is estimated at Rs. 45 crores in 1986-87.

अपने विदेशी दौरों के दौरान प्रधान मंत्री द्वारा प्रयोग की गई भाषा

279. श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गत एक वर्ष में प्रधान मंत्री ने किन-किन देशों का दौरा किया, वहां के नेताओं के साथ अपनी बातचीत तथा वार्ताओं में उन्होंने किन-किन भाषाओं का प्रयोग किया;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि विदेशों में अधिकांश दूतावासों में हिन्दी बोलने और लिखने वाले तथा दुभाषियों का नितांत अभाव है ;

(ग) क्या भारत के राजनेता तथा अधिकारी अंग्रेजी का ही प्रयोग करते हैं और उन दुभाषियों की सेवाओं का उपयोग नहीं करते जो हिन्दी में बातचीत कर सकते हैं ; और

(घ) क्या यह भी सच है कि हमारे नेताओं द्वारा विदेशों में भारतीय संस्कृति तथा साहित्य को नहीं अपनाया जाता बल्कि वहां केवल अंग्रेजी संस्कृति, साहित्य तथा भाषा का प्रयोग किया जाता है ; यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री के. आर. नारायण) : (क) 1 अप्रैल, 1985 से 31 मार्च, 1986 की अवधि के दौरान प्रधान मंत्री ने भूटान, बंगलादेश, मालदीप, मास्को, सोवियत समाजवादी गणतंत्र, जापान, वियतनाम, अल्जीरिया, मिस्र, फ्रांस, यू.के., नीदरलैंड, स्वीडन, संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका, क्यूबा और बहमास की यात्रा की । प्रधान मंत्री ने अपनी बैठकों में अंग्रेजी भाषा का प्रयोग किया । ऐसा बातचीत में सुविधा देखते हुए किया गया ।

(ख) जी नहीं ।

(ग) जैसाकि पहले बताया गया है अंग्रेजी का प्रयोग मुख्यतया सुविधा के लिए हो किया जाता है क्योंकि बहुत से देशों में समझी जाती है ।

(घ) जी नहीं ।

280. *[Transferred to the 30th April, 1986]*

Non-payment of Pensions to ex-Army Personnel working in Forces of Former Princely States

281. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many ex-army personnel who had been working in the forces of former Princely States before their merger in Rajasthan, have not received their pension so far ;

(b) if so, what is the total number of such cases ; and

(c) what is the number of such persons of Umed Infantry of former state of Kota in Rajasthan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN NEHRU):
(a) to (c) No case for sanctin of pension is pending with CDA (P) Allahabad in respect of those personnel who were working with the Forces of the former Princely States of Rajasthan and were entitled to pension under the rules. Any specific case of non-sanctioning of pension to an entitled person can be examined if the details thereof are provided.

Indian Aid to Laos

282. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the amount of aid given by India to Laos during the last three years; and